tested and analysed in private laboratories instead of at national laboratories of proven expertise; and

(c) what steps Government have taken against the 'Mafias' and their agents in the plant who attempted to sabotage the modification in Sudamdih Washery to check the flow of coal outside the plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI C. K. JAFFAR SHARIEF): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Losses suffered by Burn Standard Company Limited

2614. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Burn Standard Company Limited which is a Constituent of Bharat Bhari Udyog Nigam Limited had incurred an accumulated loss to the tune of Rs. 10 crore till—July, 1986;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Management of Burn Standard Company has been spending a large sums fighting a court case just to stall the implementation of Government's decision to pay the interim relief to the public sector employees; and

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Burn Standard Co. Ltd. was incorporated as Government Company with effect from 1-12-1976. The Company which was running into losses for many years turned the corner in 1982-83 and thereafter had been earning operating profits till 1986-87. Its accumulated loss till 31-3-1986 was Rs. 37.50 crores.

(b) Some of the major reasons for losses incurred by the company prior to 1982-83 include acute shortages in the supply of critical inputs in time, under-utilisation of capacity in the engineering units due to non-availability of free supply items from Railways, frequent and sporadic power cuts resulting in the loss of production, shortage of working capital and execution of unremunerative orders.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The interim relief announced by the Government in August 1987 was not payable to the workmen of Burn Standard Co. Ltd. who are governed by the Tripartite Engineering Wage Settlement. However, the Employees Union at Head Office of the Company at Calcutta instituted a case against the company in December, 1987 for the grant of interim relief. The question of grant of interim relief has been resolved with the Tripartite Engineering Wage Settlement on 28-1-1988 for all workmen and clerical/supervisory staff of Central public sector engineering units in West Bengal who were covered under the last Tripartite wage Settlement dated 2-9-1983. The company had to incur legal expense of Rs. 46,000/- (approx) for defending the aforesaid court case.

Representation submitted by Oriental Power Cables Limited

2615. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representations were submitted to him by the workers of Oriental Power Cables Limited, Kota, requesting for the take over and merger of the Unit with Hindustan Cables Limited; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) The Oriental Power Cables